

State of Tennessee

Jackson County

September 3, 1837

Dear and affectionate Brother and Sister with much pleasure and gratification of mind I now imbrace this most acceptable opportunity of renewing our covenant by way of letter and of informing of you that I received your accceptable and kind letter of August the 6th which letter I received the 1st day of September. We are all well accept one of my daughters she has been sick some two or three weeks now with something like the ague and fever, and we humbly thank God the

Giver of all Good for this fare bestowing his kind and loving mercies towards us all, hoping that these few inclosed lines may come to hand and find you all in good health. Your letter gave us all great satisfaction to hear that you was still on mercies side of Eternity and was enjoining a reasonable portion of health with your fellow mortals. You stated that you accidentally and unexpectedly received intelligence from the mouth of stephen mayfield of my place of residence. I can now inform you that unexpectedly did I recive your letter also. Your letter informs me that mayfield told you I bought his fathers farm but that is a rong information of mayfield for I purchased it of Sampsson williams and Esq. Gray altho mayfield may be excused for telling you so for when I bought my farm

mayfields father lived on it and stephen was small and young at that time and no

doubt he though I bought it from his father. It was a valuable tract of lendlying on roaring river about 4 miles and a half from its mouth and about 6 miles from Gainsborough. It lies all in a body together we have the Cumberland River running

near us which makes navigation advantageous to us. The land that I hold are worth

between two and three thousand dolla at a low calculation. I have me a gristmill

built on my spring ranch and has been running a still about 16 years and grinds my own corn and stills it myself. The reason that I did not move to that county when I came home I found that I could purchase the farm that I now live on and also

the reason that I never have wrote to you was because you talked of moving from where

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I left you and I knew not where to write too. I want you to write to me again as soon as you received this letter and let me know how you are doing and what water

course you are living on and the nearest towns to you and where your mother and

sisters are living and how they are doing and tell me how all the friends are doing

as far as you can. I have eight in family four whites and four blacks tow daughters are living with us yet are both women grown. Our children are all here but two They are both daughters on are living in arkansaw washington county and the other

is living in illinois franklin county. I shall now give you the names of my children beginning at the oldest John, Elisabeth, Erasmus, Jane, Willie, Elias, Vilet, Syntha, and Nancy. Syntha and Nancy are the two that lives with us and they

are both single yet Nancy are the youngest. Elisabeth it is that lives in Illinois and Jane in the arkansaw. The balance of our children are all here. I want you to let me know how many you have in family etc. I am now this day 60 years of age and am stout at that age as could be expected. I must now also inform you that

I have made three trips to the Illinois in 7 years and in my trips I made all the inquiry I could to find you and I could not hear any account of you and now as I have been to see ou once and tried to find you since and could not find you I wish

you now to come and see us if you possibly can and let us enjoy the company of each

other once more in life. I now shall give you an account of your ages as I have

them in my possession and not knowing whether you have them or not, now they are as

follows, Frances Gaw was born march the 10th 1783, Mary Gaw was born April the 3rd

1784, John Gaw was born October 31st 1786, Margaret Gaw was born November 18, 1787,

this is your fathers record of our ages. I want you to write as often as you can and

I will receive them with joy and I can always have money enough to lift as many of

you as you can send, and let me know how you are doing and how you like your country

and whether it is healthy or not so nothing more remains only your Loving brother

and sister until death,

_____Thomas and Nancy Gaw.